

Rare Plants of Louisiana



Physostegia correllii - Correll's false dragon-head Mint Family (Lamiaceae)

Rarity Rank: S1/G2

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--------|-----------|---|------|---|--------|
| State | | | | | |
| Global | | | | | |
| | imperiled | | rare | | secure |

Range: LA, TX, Mexico

Recognition:

- Plants robust, somewhat succulent, up to 1 m tall; stems often unbranched
- Hardy perennial with elongate rhizomes
- Mid-stem leaves opposite, sessile (not stalked), usually widest in the middle with large sharp teeth
- Leaves decrease in size from mid- to upper-stem
- Flowers pink and tubular with two lips

Flowering Time: May to September

Light Requirement: Full sun

Wetland Indicator Status: OBL - almost always in wetlands

Habitat: Louisiana occurrences are all in roadside ditches. Elsewhere it occurs along river banks, often growing in flowing water. Vigorous growth of rhizomes allows Correll's false dragon-head to be competitive in disturbed areas. Non-natural habitats such as drainage and irrigation ditches and wet utility ROWs represent potential habitat.

Threats:

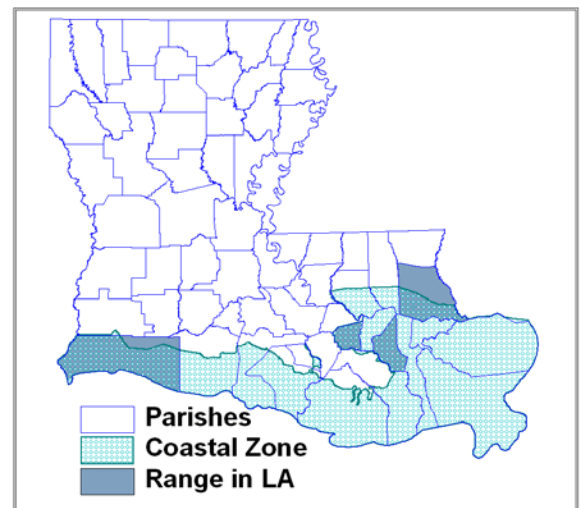
- Dredging/scraping of ditches for maintenance and installation of water lines and other utilities
- Herbicides used in roadside management
- Exotic invasive species may be a threat, though Correll's false dragon-head can apparently hold its own against many; one LA population is competing with the exotic torpedo grass (*Panicum repens*) and close monitoring is being carried out
- Apparently naturally rare (?)

Beneficial Management Practices:

- Bore underneath populations when installing new water lines or other utilities
- Identify and avoid Correll's false dragon-head in broad-spectrum herbicide applications
- Control competing non-native plants by hand removal or grass-selective herbicides



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- Increase field survey efforts to detect additional populations

LA River Basins: Pearl, Pontchartrain, Barataria, Mermentau, Calcasieu, Sabine



Vegetative material of Correll's false dragon-head showing unbranched stems, strongly ascending opposite leaves with obvious teeth. St. James Parish, Louisiana.



Flowering and fruiting material of Correll's false dragon-head, here competing with the exotic vasey grass (*Paspalum urvillei*).

References:

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- Godfrey, R. K. and J. W. Wooten. 1981. Aquatic and wetland plants of southeastern United States: dicotyledons. University of Georgia Press, Athens. 933 pp.
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For more information, please visit our Web pages at

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